

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A container as defined in claim 7~~claim 2~~, wherein each of said flexible valve elements has a normally closed position.

Claim 4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A container as defined in claim 7~~claim 1~~, wherein each of said flexible valve elements is formed of a resilient flexible material.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A container as defined in claim 24, ~~for holding items to be microbially deactivated in a reprocessor, having:~~

~~a tray for holding said items to be deactivated;~~

~~a lid operable to cover said tray and to define an interior, sealed cavity that holds said items to be deactivated;~~

~~a fluid inlet passage into said cavity;~~

~~a fluid outlet passage into said cavity; and~~

~~at least one valve assembly on said tray associated with each of said passages, said valve assembly including a one piece, flexible valve element that is movable through contact with an actuator on said reprocessor between an open position and a closed position, said valve element being movable to said open position when said container is placed within said~~

~~reprocessor and moving to said closed position when said container is removed from said reprocessor,~~ wherein each of said valve element-elements includes a first portion movable relative to said tray and a second portion fixed relative to said tray, said first portion being connected to said second portion by a plurality of radially extending arms.

Claims 8-21 (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A container as defined in claim 24~~claim 21~~, wherein ~~one of~~ said fluid ~~inlet~~inlets is in fluid communication with a nozzle within said container.

23. (currently amended) A container as defined in claim 24~~claim 21~~, wherein ~~one of~~ said fluid ~~inlet~~inlets is in fluid communication with fluid connectors connectable with medical instruments in said container.

24. (previously presented) A container for holding items to be microbially deactivated in a reprocessor, comprised of:

- a generally cup-shaped tray having a bottom wall and a continuous side wall extending to one side from the periphery of said bottom wall, said bottom wall and said side wall defining a cavity for receiving instruments and items to be microbially deactivated;

- a lid attachable to said tray, said lid dimensioned to cover said cavity;

- a fluid inlet in said tray communicating with said cavity;

- a fluid outlet in said tray communicating with said cavity, said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet each having a one-piece, flexible valve element, said flexible valve element being movable by a mechanical actuator on said reprocessor between an open position to allow fluid flow through said container during a deactivation cycle and a closed position sealing said cavity;
- and

- a second fluid inlet having a flexible valve element that is movable between an open position and a closed position through contact with a mechanical actuator on a reprocessor,

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/633,349
Response dated August 12, 2008
OUTSTANDING OFFICE ACTION dated June 12, 2008

wherein one of said fluid inlets is in fluid communication with a seal defined between said tray and said lid.

Claims 25-31 (canceled)